stopped w.e.f. 12.5.88 as a separate pool of accommodation comprising general pool houses already in occupation of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat employees has been created. No other separate pool has been created this year.

Water and Electricity connections to M.S. flats in Baba Kharak Singh Mark, New Delhi

2678. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the servant quarters for the use of allottees of Multi-storeyed flats, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi where Members of Parliament are also residing are ready for use;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the connection of water and electricity are yet to be given to these quarters; and

(c) if so, when these quarters are likely to be ready for handing over to the Directorate of Estates, New Delhi and for allotment to the allottees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The quarters will be handed over to the Directorate of Estates after the water and electricity connections are provided by the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

U.S. Grants to increase Food Productivity

2679. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Agriculture of United States has announced six research grants for purchase to support increased food productivity in India;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh got worth Rs. 1,97,130/- grants from U.S.; and

(c) if so, what are the areas where this loan is likely to be utilised by Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) During the year 1987-88, 34 research projects were sanctioned by USDA to support increased food productivity in India.

(b) Grants worth Rs. 19.71,000/- were sanctioned by USDA to Bhopal University. Bhopal for the implementation of a research project entitled "General Survey", systematics and the biology of fresh water prawns of Bhopal and Hoshangabad districts with special reference to the culture management of Macrobrachium Rosenbergic etc.

(c) These grants will be utilised in Bhopal and Hoshangabad districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Impact of strip mining on environment

2680. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a study of the extent of strip mining, if any, in the country and its impact on environment; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Strip mining which is essentially opencast mining of coal, lignite and other minerals